

6/79

B.A. 1243

424 MAIN STREET  
Reisterstown, Maryland.

Private.

424 MAIN STREET is a traditional mid-nineteenth century frame house of modest size having two rooms and a stair hall facing the street, and the kitchen in the rear wing. It is well maintained as a dwelling and has been altered.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1243  
MABI # 0312435504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

424 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert A. Benedict

Telephone #: 833-0593

STREET & NUMBER

424 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

— VICINITY OF

Maryland STATE 21136 zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

STREET & NUMBER

Towson, Maryland

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Liber #: 3206

Folio #: 505

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-1243

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

424 Main Street is a five bay, two story, gable roofed frame house dating from ca. 1860-1875 facing the street to the east. A two story, one bay, gable roofed kitchen wing extends behind the northerly bays. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles over German siding. The principal entrance is centered in the east front, sheltered by a one-bay square porch, one story in height, with a hipped roof supported by pairs of square columns. Windows are 6/6, with narrow frames and louvred blinds. The roof extends over the walls with a generous plain overhang, the rakes identical to the eaves. A single-flue chimney rises internally above the north and west gables, but it has been removed from the south gable.

The rear wing has been widened to the south by enclosing the south porch and raising that enclosure to two full stories.

Within, a hall extends through the middle bay and a single room is on either side. The hall contains the open staircase with its plain round rail supported by a slim turned newel. Openings are trimmed with plain beaded architraves; doors have four raised but unmoulded panels. The south room's mantel has thin plain pilasters with elongated square capitals supporting a plain frieze, bed moulding and plain shelf. The northerly mantel is of painted slate, with a cast iron liner formerly containing a Latrobe stove. A fireplace is in the rear wing, formerly the kitchen, and an enclosed back stair winds to the second floor to its north.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-1243

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1804, John Reister died and his prosperous son-in-law, Henry Wiest became the executor of the estate. He decided to divide the thirty acres of land lying along the west side of the turnpike into building lots and he sold them off between the years 1805-1811 (Marks op. cit., 182). This house was eventually built on lots #13 and #14. These lots were sold to Robert Cross, Jr. in 1805 (WG 88/561-63) and comprised at that time 9½ acres and 24 sq. Poles. Cross resold 11 acres to Henry Wiest almost immediately (WG 88/563-65).

In 1814, Wiest sold 11 acres to Adam Brenizer (or Branizer) (WG 128/384-86). Brenizer apparently could not meet his payments on the land for the property was assigned in 1821 to Christian Wiest (WG 162/76). The land was sold at auction in 1830 and was purchased by Solomon Choate (WG 210/193-95).

In 1831, Choate conveyed the property to John Beckley, Jr. for \$825.00 (WG 210/363-66). Beckley had apparently taken the mortgage on the former Wiest property adjoining Brotherly Love in 1821 (WG 160/308). He bought it in 1831 (Marks, op. cit., p. 67 & 196).

In 1865, Beckley conveyed 15 acres, including this land, to his son-in-law John P. Dean (JHL 44/469). Dean was, in addition, to pay \$100.00 a year to Beckley for Beckley's lifetime.

What occurred next is not clear. John Dean apparently conveyed this lot to his wife's nephew, Philip Reister Owings, sometime between 1865-1867. No evidence of this transaction turned up, however. But in 1867, Philip R. Owings sold the property, 8100 sq. ft. or 136/1000 of an acre to Mary Y. Parkison for \$225.00 (EHA 57/8). There is evidence that Owings sold adjoining land to the south at this time to a Temperance Organization (see #426). 1877 Baltimore County Atlas (Hopkins) shows Mrs. Parkison as owner.

In 1892, Mary Y. Parkison, who was then living in Chicago, sold the lot to Sarah E. Jessop. This deed mentions a frame house for the first time and this is most likely the one standing today.

In 1897, Sarah Ellen Jessop sold the lot to Enmilla Mather (LMB 223/103).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

424 Main Street, Reisterstown  
Baltimore County

Continuation Sheet: Maryland

Item No.: 8

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Significance, continued

In 1903, Enmilla Mather sold the land to Joseph Vondersmith (WPC 274/287).

An interesting thing occurred at this point. Vondersmith offered to exchange this property for some property belonging to Mary Jane Gardner which lay a mile and a half outside of Reisterstown in Soldier's Delight. Gardner had been given life estate in this Soldier's Delight property by her sister Margaret A. Ford in 1896. The property was rented and had fallen into great disrepair. Since it was outside of town, Ms. Gardner could not watch over it and had a hard time collecting the rent. Vondersmith's house (#424) was smaller, but in good repair and was convenient. He wanted a larger place, could fix up the Gardner place and wanted to be in the country. The exchange took place in 1905 (WPC 286/250).

In 1910, M. J. Gardner had died and her heirs were able to sell the property to Alice Henderson for \$1600.00 (WPC 374/131).

In 1919, Henderson to Clarence M. Beasman and wife (WPC 508/333).

In 1951, Beasman (Clarence M. Beasman) to his sons equally (GLB 2013/231).

In 1955, the sons sold to Charles Kerr and wife (GLB 2693/419).

In 1955, Kerr sold to James J. Griffin and wife (2789/462).

In 1957, the Griffins sold to the present owners.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Marks, Lillian Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)  
 Land Records Baltimore County Courthouse Towson, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 46' x 130'

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY** James T. Wollon, A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Robert Benedict, Volunteer Researcher 9/78

ORGANIZATION

Historic Reisterstown, Inc.

DATE

833-3078 (Ms. Ives)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Reisterstown, Maryland

STATE

21136

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438



BA 1243

424 Main St

Reist. Md

Carol Pollack

4/77

East.